



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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**DEC 05 2013**

Ref: 8OC

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0604

Dear Congressman Gardner:

Regarding your letter of October 30, 2013, I appreciate your interest in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's listening session on reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. We have received many letters like yours in response to our listening session and we are attempting to follow up with each one.

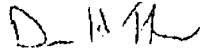
The EPA is working diligently to address carbon pollution from power plants. In June, President Obama called on agencies across the federal government, including the EPA, to take action to cut carbon pollution to protect our country from the impacts of climate change, and to lead the world in this effort. His call included a directive for the EPA "to work expeditiously to complete carbon pollution standards for both new and existing power plants." Currently, there are no federal standards in place to reduce carbon pollution from the country's largest source of it.


As we consider guidelines for existing power plants, the EPA is engaged in vigorous and unprecedented outreach with the public and with key stakeholders. In addition to the eleven listening sessions held throughout the country, the EPA leadership and senior staff in Washington, D.C., and in every one of our ten regional offices have been meeting with: industry leaders and CEOs from the coal, oil, and natural gas sectors; state, tribal, and local government officials from every region of the country, including Colorado; and environmental and public health groups, faith groups, labor groups and others. Our meetings with state governments have encompassed leadership and staff from state environment departments, state energy departments and state public utility commissions. We are doing this because we want—and need—all available information about what is important to each state and stakeholder. We know that guidelines require flexibility and sensitivity to state and regional differences.

In terms of timing, the listening sessions we've been holding to date and other outreach efforts have been planned well before we propose guidelines so that we can incorporate feedback about how the EPA should develop and implement carbon pollution guidelines for existing power plants under the Clean Air Act. When we issue the draft guidelines in June 2014, a more formal public comment period will follow, as with all rules, providing additional opportunities for public hearings.

Again, we thank you for your letter and for helping us develop a common sense, pragmatic proposal that works for the citizens and businesses of Colorado, as well as the rest of the nation. We appreciate your views, as well as those of your constituents, and please be assured they will be taken into account as we move forward with our proposal. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may wish to contact Sandy Fells, Regional Congressional Liaison, at 303-312-6604 or [fells.sandy@epa.gov](mailto:fells.sandy@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



 Shaun L. McGrath  
Regional Administrator

